

Michael Rothenstein

the Sailing Boats suite

December 2nd to January 3rd 1958

Publication exhibition of the eight relief & lino prints known as the 'Sailing Boats' suite / Also a number of gouache drawings associated with the prints

St George's Gallery Prints 7 Cork Street . London W1
telephone Regent 3660 . weekdays 10-6 Saturdays 10-1

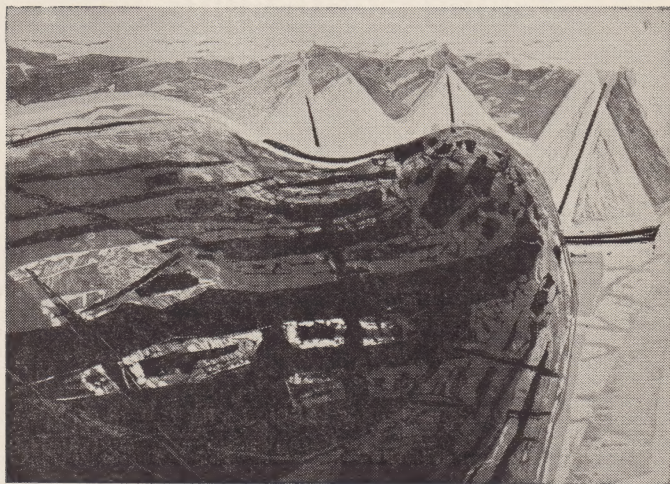
Michael Rothenstein was born in London in 1908. He enjoys a reputation now of being one of Britain's leading and most prolific printmakers, even though the first lino-cut (his staple medium) was only made in 1954

Rothenstein maintains that his idiom 'is more abstract than people think', and upon examination it does become evident that he uses figurative subjects such as road-signs, farm-machinery, and small sailing-craft as an excuse rather than as a literary motive for formal composition

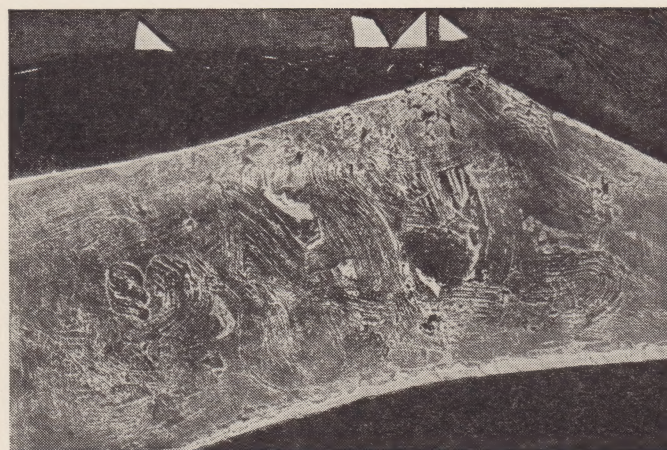
The six relief and lino prints which are illustrated in this catalogue constitute what is known as the 'Sailing Boats Suite'. They were conceived in two stages. Nos. 1-3 reflect a visit in the summer of 1957 to Beg-Meil on the Breton coast. It was the contrast of the two elements, monumental rock and fluid water, which intrigued him here. Consequently he spent much time clambering about on the rocky headlands, and indeed to get to know the movements of water better he even taught himself to swim!

In the following summer of 1958 he went to Yugoslavia: to Rovinj in Istria. In this town one of the most striking local characteristics is the immense richness of the graffiti scratched on the walls by the population. Just previously, Rothenstein had been experimenting with building up texture on the surface of his lino block; these graffiti seemed to indicate the development of this technique much further. Influence of this is to be found in the last three prints

However, the six prints are a truly homogenous suite, as they are the outcome of consistent and painstaking experiment in his studio at Great Bardfield in Essex



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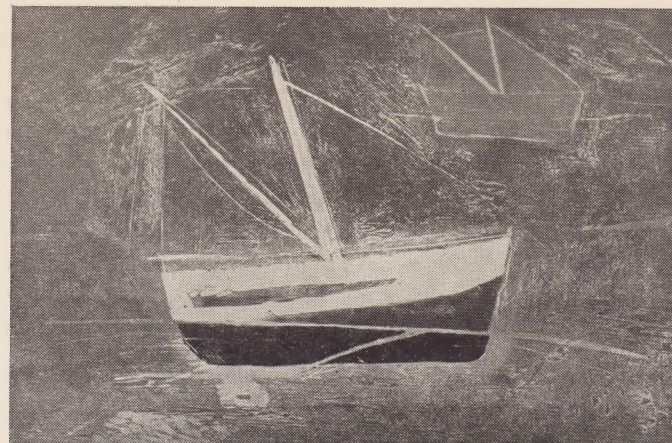
The Sailing Boats suite

All six prints of this suite are 19" x 28½" on heavy cartridge paper measuring 22¼" x 30¼". Rothenstein has printed the entire edition himself with the help of one assistant in his Great Bardfield studio. It has been thought advisable to change the description of his medium from 'linocuts' to 'relief and lino prints' since by building up texture on the surface of the blocks he makes use of a third level of relief to take ink. There are 50 edition proofs and five artist's proofs of each print. They are published by the St George's Gallery as from 2nd December 1958. The edition prints are priced at 7 gns each, and the entire suite is sold at £41

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Rock wave. Brittany | 7 gns unframed |
| 2 Red cliff. Brittany | 7 gns |
| 3 Rock Shelf. Brittany | 7 gns |
| 4 Yugoslav fishing-boats | 7 gns |
| 5 Black mast. Dalmatian sea | 7 gns |
| 6 White boat. Yugoslavia | 7 gns |



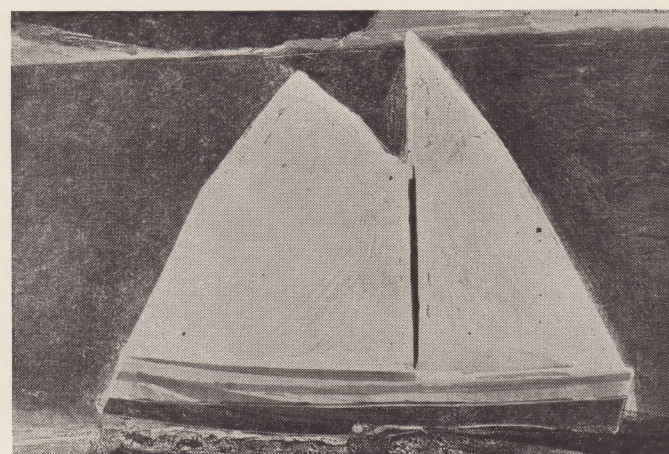
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- J387
- The following three prints are included in the exhibition being contemporary with, though not part of the Sailing Boats Suite
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 7 Rock fish | 7 gns unframed |
| 8 Boat & rock | 8 gns |
| 9 Blue lobster | 8 gns |

Gouaches and collages

The following five pictures are gouache and collage studies associated with the Sailing Boats Suite

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Upright rocks* | 30 gns framed |
| 11 Red cliff | 20 gns |
| 12 Square rock | 35 gns |
| 13 Rock face | 22 gns |
| 14 Rock fish | lent by Lord Croft |

* This painting represents Michael Rothenstein in the forthcoming Phaidon book on Modern British Artists

The film 'Linoprints'

This is a 20 minute film in Kodachrome 16 mm., which shows Michael Rothenstein making his relief and lino prints from the initial idea to the conclusion of the final print. It was made by Anthony West and can be hired from the St George's Gallery for a fee of £3

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